

TOM McCLINTOCK
4TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

508 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-2511

4230 DOUGLAS BOULEVARD, SUITE 200
GRANITE BAY, CA 95746
(916) 786-5560

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0504

COMMITTEE ON
NATURAL RESOURCES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON WATER AND POWER
RANKING MEMBER

SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS,
FORESTS, AND PUBLIC LANDS

COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION AND LABOR
SUBCOMMITTEE ON EARLY CHILDHOOD,
ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH,
EMPLOYMENT, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

October 26, 2009

Chairman Nick Rahall
House Natural Resources Committee
1324 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Chairwoman Grace Napolitano
House Water and Power Subcommittee
1522 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Nick
Dear Chairman Rahall and *Grace* Chairwoman Napolitano:

I write to respectfully request that the House Water and Power Subcommittee hold a field hearing in California to resolve the water crisis impacting the San Joaquin Valley, all of California, and our nationwide food supply. This letter follows two attached earlier requests from our colleagues that have been met with silence.

The Natural Resources Committee has held just one oversight hearing this year on California-specific water issues. That hearing precluded testimony from non-governmental witnesses, which is why many of our colleagues asked for a field hearing which could have included testimony from impacted farming operations, small businesses, individuals and environmental groups. Further, the only recent opportunity to hold a hearing on the matter is being supplanted with a hearing on water data management.

Meanwhile, this government's decision to divert hundreds of billions of gallons of water has led to massive unemployment for tens of thousands of families, following on an unprecedented scale, and imported food supplies from China to what used to be the breadbasket of America. The situation remains unacceptable and has many wondering if Congress has abdicated its responsibility while communities face economic extinction.

The time to act was quite a few months ago, but Congress can still seize the opportunity in time for next year's planting season. A hearing should include diversified testimony and the goal should be immediate solutions to bring the unemployed back to work by delivering water once again to the fields. It is simply wrong to waste any more time on stifling meaningful action to bring 40,000 people back to work. I stand ready to work with you on this vitally important effort. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Tom McClintock

cc: The Honorable Doc Hastings
The Honorable Dennis Cardoza
The Honorable George Radanovich
The Honorable Jim Costa
The Honorable Devin Nunes

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

March 31, 2009

The Honorable Nick Rahall
Chairman
House Natural Resources Committee
1324 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Doc Hastings
Ranking Member
House Natural Resources Committee
1329 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Rahall and Ranking Member Hastings:

Thank you for holding this hearing on the California drought, specifically focused on the actions by Federal and State agencies to address impacts on lands, fisheries, and water users. A hearing is very timely in light of the daunting impacts of what many have acknowledged to be drought conditions exacerbated by man-made legal and regulatory burdens.

This is not the first time our State has faced extended drought. The legendary Central Valley and State Water Projects were built to store and convey water as a way of overcoming drought and mitigating for groundwater overdraft. These projects have helped bring prosperity to our State, which despite the current economic challenges remains the eighth largest economy in the world and exports large volumes of specialty crops.

Despite these successes, our State is now in a water crisis of historic proportions because of the rigidity of federal laws like the Endangered Species Act which have taken away the flexibility to manage our water infrastructure system. A leading California water official, Mr. Tim Quinn, recently stated that "This is still a pretty decent drought but nothing unusual... We were prepared, as usual, for the drought, but they have taken all the tools away from us." Our State has led the way in conservation and water efficiency and will continue to do so. There are countless examples of water agencies, local governments and water users coming together to aggressively pursue reuse, reclamation and reliability. However, highly respected witnesses have testified before the House Natural Resources Committee time and again that these efforts alone cannot solve the California water crisis.

We hope today's hearing will yield significant progress toward finding short and long-term solutions. Hearing from governmental witnesses is important, but we urge the Committee to step outside the Washington beltway and hear firsthand accounts from citizens throughout California impacted by the drought. The Committee needs to hear from those in communities in dire need because of this regulatory drought. As such, we respectfully request that the Committee conduct a site visit or hold field hearings in places like Mendota, California, which is experiencing 40% unemployment due to water cut-offs associated with endangered species regulations. We strongly believe these hearings/visits will help the Committee gain a better

understanding of what people in the non-governmental world face in their everyday lives in these uncertain times and will better equip us all to enact policies to solve this problem.

We look forward to working with you on this request and thank you again for holding this hearing.

Sincerely,

Ken Calvert Jeff Kline

Ellen Gelfy Don R

Jerry Lewis Brian P. Bittner

Ed Royce Howard P. Burt

Dennis Nums Chen H

Kevin McCurt John Campbell

May Bono Mack Wally Herger

Don D Ray P

For P. Ch. S.

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 4, 2009

The Honorable Nick Rahall
Chairman
House Natural Resources Committee
1324 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Doc Hastings
Ranking Member
House Natural Resources Committee
1329 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Rahall and Ranking Member Hastings:

We write to follow-up on our earlier request for the House Natural Resources Committee to hold a field hearing on the man-made drought in the San Joaquin Valley.

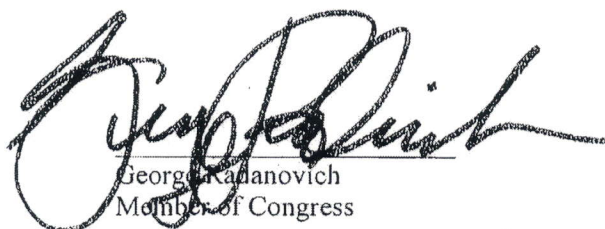
At the time of our March 31, 2009 request, the San Joaquin Valley and southern California faced crippling job losses and economic disaster because of a Biological Opinion on the three-inch Delta Smelt. Today's proposal by the Obama Administration to curtail even more water deliveries to California farms and cities in the name of salmon, steelhead, green sturgeon, and killer whale protection will make matters even more devastating to California's communities.


Very little has been done to help California's San Joaquin water-starved communities in the last few months. Red-tape, bureaucratic inertia and lack of adequate funding have made a bad situation even worse in the San Joaquin Valley. In addition, President Obama's skipping an opportunity to witness the dire economic and social situation in the San Joaquin Valley so he could attend a \$3 million Hollywood fundraiser on May 24th left the impression that policy-makers in Washington, DC fail to understand the everyday plights of Valley farmers and farm-workers.

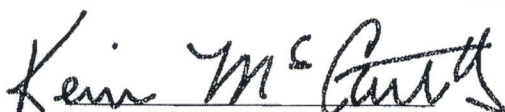
The Natural Resources Committee has an opportunity to reverse this perception by holding a field hearing this summer in the San Joaquin Valley where Congress can listen firsthand to impacted citizens and tour the nearby area to begin the process of enacting real change for the hard working people who put food on America's table.

We hope you agree that the status quo of massive unemployment and economic turmoil in the name of protecting fish is unacceptable. We stand ready to work with you immediately to ensure a field hearing occurs so the people's voices can be heard. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


George Radanovich
Member of Congress


Devin Nunes
Member of Congress


Kevin McCarthy
Member of Congress